

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic transaction system provided with a communications terminal storing information relating to electronic money therein, and an accounting control device for allowing users to make settlement by electronic transaction by data communication with the communications terminal, wherein

the communications terminal includes:

a storing unit that stores a certain amount of electronic money therein;

an electronic money information altering unit that alters the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit in response to an instruction from the accounting control device; and

a display which displays the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit, and

the accounting control device includes:

a deposit money storing unit that stores a certain amount of electronic money deposited in the communications terminal therein;

a transmitting unit that transmits a command requesting addition or subtraction of electronic money to the communications terminal; and

an electronic money administering unit that alters the amount of electronic money stored in the deposit money storing unit in response to the command requesting

addition or subtraction of electronic money sent from the transmitting unit.

2. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the communications terminal includes:

a password storing unit that stores a password used in permitting alteration of the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit of the communications terminal;

a password input unit that allows the user to input an arbitrary digit or digits indicative of a password by external manipulation;

an authenticating unit that judges whether the password inputted by the password input unit coincides with the password stored in the password storing unit; and

a controlling unit that controls the electronic money information altering unit to alter the data indicative of the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit of the communications terminal in response to the instruction sent from the accounting control unit if the authenticating unit judges that the password inputted by the password input unit coincides with the password stored in the password storing unit.

3. A communications terminal comprising a storing unit that stores a certain amount of electronic money therein, a electronic money information altering unit that alters the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit, and a display which displays the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit.

4. A wide area network printing system which is so configured as to allow users to print out print data sent from a server by an image forming apparatus which is installed remotely away from the server but is communicatively connected therewith via the Internet, the system provided with a communications terminal storing information relating to electronic money therein, and an accounting control device which allows the users to make settlement of a print fee corresponding to the print data by data communication with the communications terminal, wherein

the accounting control device includes:

a deposit money storing unit that stores a certain amount of electronic money deposited in the communications terminal of the user;

a transmitting unit that transmits a command requesting addition or subtraction of electronic money to the communications terminal; and

an electronic money administering unit that

alters the amount of electronic money stored in the deposit money storing unit in response to the command requesting addition or subtraction of electronic money sent from the transmitting unit, and

the communications terminal includes:

a document ID receiving unit that receives a document ID for identifying the print data from the server;

a sending/receiving unit that communicates data with the accounting control device;

a storing unit that stores a certain amount of electronic money therein,

an electronic money information altering unit that alters the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit therein in response to an instruction from the accounting control unit; and

a display which displays the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit,

the server includes:

a data sending/receiving unit that communicates various data with the image forming apparatus;

a print data storing unit that stores the print data therein;

a document ID storing unit that stores the document ID for identifying the print data stored in the print data storing unit; and

a document ID transmitting unit that transmits the document ID stored in the document ID storing unit to the communications terminal of the user, and

the image forming apparatus includes:

an accepting unit that accepts input of the document ID by the user;

a transmitting unit that transmits the document ID inputted to the accepting unit;

a receiving unit that receives the print data from the server; and

an outputting unit that prints out the received print data, whereby

the server reads out the print data identified by the document ID from the print data storing unit, and sends the print data to the image forming apparatus in response to receiving the document ID from the transmitting unit of the image forming apparatus.

5. The system according to Claim 4, wherein the server includes thumbnail image data generating unit that generates thumbnail image data representing the print data stored in the print data storing unit, and the server is operative to allow the data sending/receiving unit to send the document ID for identifying the print data, and the thumbnail image data to the communications terminal.

6.. The system according to Claim 4, wherein the data sending/receiving unit of the server is operative to communicate various data with the communications terminal or the accounting control device, and to send the print data to the image forming apparatus in response to receiving, from the communications terminal or from the accounting control device, a notification notifying that a certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is subtracted in the communications terminal.

7. The system according to Claim 5, wherein the data sending/receiving unit of the server is operative to communicate various data with the communications terminal or the accounting control device, and to send the print data to the image forming apparatus in response to receiving, from the communications terminal or from the accounting control device, a notification notifying that a certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is subtracted in the communications terminal.

8. The system according to Claim 4, wherein the data sending/receiving unit of the server is operative to communicate various data with the communications terminal or the accounting control device, and to send the print data to the image forming apparatus in response to receiving, from the communications terminal or from the accounting control device, information relating to the electronic money stored in the storing unit of the communications terminal, and based on a judgment that the price of the print data whose transmission has been requested from the communications terminal does not exceed the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit.

9. The system according to Claim 5, wherein the data sending/receiving unit of the server is operative to communicate various data with the communications terminal or the accounting control device, and to send the print data to the image forming apparatus in response to receiving, from the communications terminal or from the accounting control device, information relating to the electronic money stored in the storing unit of the communications terminal, and based on a judgment that the price of the print data whose transmission has been requested from the communications terminal does not exceed the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit.